FORM PTO-1390 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER (REV 11-98) 306.38372X00 TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES April 13, 2000 DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known. **CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371** INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 13 October 1998 (13.10.98) 13 October 1997 (13.10.97) PCT/EP98/06479 TITLE OF INVENTION ETHOD FOR INCREASING THE WEAR RESISTANCE OF A WORK PIECE PPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US TIER, Gerd; RUSSNER, Carsten; RUSSNER, Klaus; STINGL, Peter; RADKE, Helmut; TEMPEL, Steffen; and LEUTERITZ, Dietmar Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information: This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 2 This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(l). A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date. A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). has been transmitted by the International Bureau. is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). X A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. have been transmitted by the International Bureau. have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. have not been made and will not be made. A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)). Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included: An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. A FIRST preliminary amendment. A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. A substitute specification. A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. Other items or information: International Publication No. W099/19271 **PCT Request Form** Figs. 1,2a-2b,3,4a-b,5a-b,6,7a-7b,8a-b,9a-9b,10a-10b

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| Group Art Unit | |
| Examiner Name | |
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